

Facility Closure

4.1 Introduction

Facility closure can be temporary or permanent. Temporary closure is defined as a shutdown for a period exceeding the time required for normal maintenance, including closure for overhaul or replacement of the combustion turbines. Causes for temporary closure include a disruption in the supply of natural gas or damage to the plant from earthquake, fire, storm, or other natural acts. Permanent closure is defined as a cessation in operations with no intent to restart operations owing to plant age, damage to the plant beyond repair, economic conditions, or other reasons. Subsection 4.2 discusses temporary facility closure; Subsection 4.3 discusses permanent facility closure.

4.2 Temporary Closure

For a temporary facility closure, where there is no release of hazardous materials, security of the facilities will be maintained on a 24-hour basis, and the California Energy Commission (CEC) and other responsible agencies will be notified. Depending on the length of shutdown necessary, a contingency plan for the temporary cessation of operations will be implemented. The contingency plan will be conducted to ensure conformance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS) and the protection of public health, safety, and the environment. The plan, depending on the expected duration of the shutdown, may include the draining of all chemicals from storage tanks and other equipment and the safe shutdown of all equipment. All wastes will be disposed of according to applicable LORS, as discussed in Subsection 8.13.

Where the temporary closure includes damage to the facility, and there is a release or threatened release of regulated substances or other hazardous materials into the environment, procedures will be followed as set forth in a Risk Management Plan (RMP) and a Hazardous Materials Business Plan to be developed as described in Subsection 8.12. Procedures will include methods to control releases, notification of applicable authorities and the public, emergency response, and training for plant personnel in responding to and controlling releases of hazardous materials. Once the immediate problem is solved, and the regulated substance/hazardous material release is contained and cleaned up, temporary closure will proceed as described above for a closure where there is no release of hazardous materials.

4.3 Permanent Closure

The planned life of the generation facility is 30 years. However, if the generation facility were still economically viable, it could be operated longer. It is also possible that the facility could become economically noncompetitive earlier than 30 years, forcing early

decommissioning. Whenever the facility is permanently closed, the closure procedure will follow a plan that will be developed as described below.

The removal of the facility from service, or decommissioning, may range from “mothballing” to the removal of all equipment and appurtenant facilities, depending on conditions at the time. Because the conditions that would affect the decommissioning decision are largely unknown at this time, these conditions would be presented to the CEC when more information is available and the timing for decommissioning is more imminent.

To ensure that public health and safety and the environment are protected during decommissioning, a decommissioning plan will be submitted to the CEC for approval prior to decommissioning. The plan will discuss the following:

- Proposed decommissioning activities for the facility and all appurtenant facilities constructed as part of the facility
- Conformance of the proposed decommissioning activities to all applicable LORS and local/regional plans
- Activities necessary to restore the site if the plan requires removal of all equipment and appurtenant facilities
- Decommissioning alternatives other than complete restoration
- Associated costs of the proposed decommissioning and the source of funds to pay for the decommissioning

In general, the decommissioning plan for the facility will attempt to maximize the recycling of all facility components.

As required by Ordinance 961, a closure plan and report will also be prepared and submitted to the City’s Environmental Health Department (EHD). Unused chemicals will be sold back to the suppliers or other purchasers or users. All equipment containing chemicals will be drained and shut down to ensure public health and safety and to protect the environment. All nonhazardous wastes will be collected and disposed of in appropriate landfills or waste collection facilities. All hazardous wastes will be disposed of according to all applicable LORS. Once hazardous materials have been removed and any remediation completed a Certificate of Closure will be requested from EHD. The site will be secured 24 hours per day during the decommissioning activities.

4.4 Laws, Ordinances, Regulations and Standards

As identified in Table 4.4-1, permanent closure or decommissioning of Vernon Power Plant (VPP) will also require compliance with the City of Vernon’s Ordinance 961, Hazardous Materials Monitoring Program. Per Sections 13.66 through 13.68, the owner will need to notify the City’s EHD at least 30 days prior to the termination of hazardous materials activities and apply for a Certificate of Closure. It also requires that within 90 days of closure, all hazardous materials and hazardous material residues shall be properly removed from equipment, structures and the premises.

TABLE 4.4-1
Applicable Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards

LORS	Purpose	Applicability (AFC Section Explaining Conformance)
City of Vernon Ordinance No. 961, Hazardous Materials Monitoring.	Requires entities that produce, store, handle, dispose of, emit, treat, or recycle hazardous materials obtain a Certificate of Closure at the termination of business operations.	A closure plan and report will be prepared and submitted to EHD (Section 4.3)

4.5 Involved Agencies and Agency Contacts

In addition to the CEC's compliance project manager (CPM), the local agency with jurisdiction will be the City's Environmental Health Department. The person to contact is listed in Table 4.5-1.

TABLE 4.5-1
Agency Contacts for Facility Closure

Issue	Agency	Address	Person Contacted	Title	Telephone
Facility Closure or Decommissioning	City of Vernon, Environmental Health Department	4305 Santa Fe Avenue Vernon, CA 90058	Lewis Pozzebon	Director	(323) 583-8811, Ext. 229